

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health of the
Kingswood Urban District Council
of the sanitary state of the
District under their control for
the year 1898.

Gentlemen

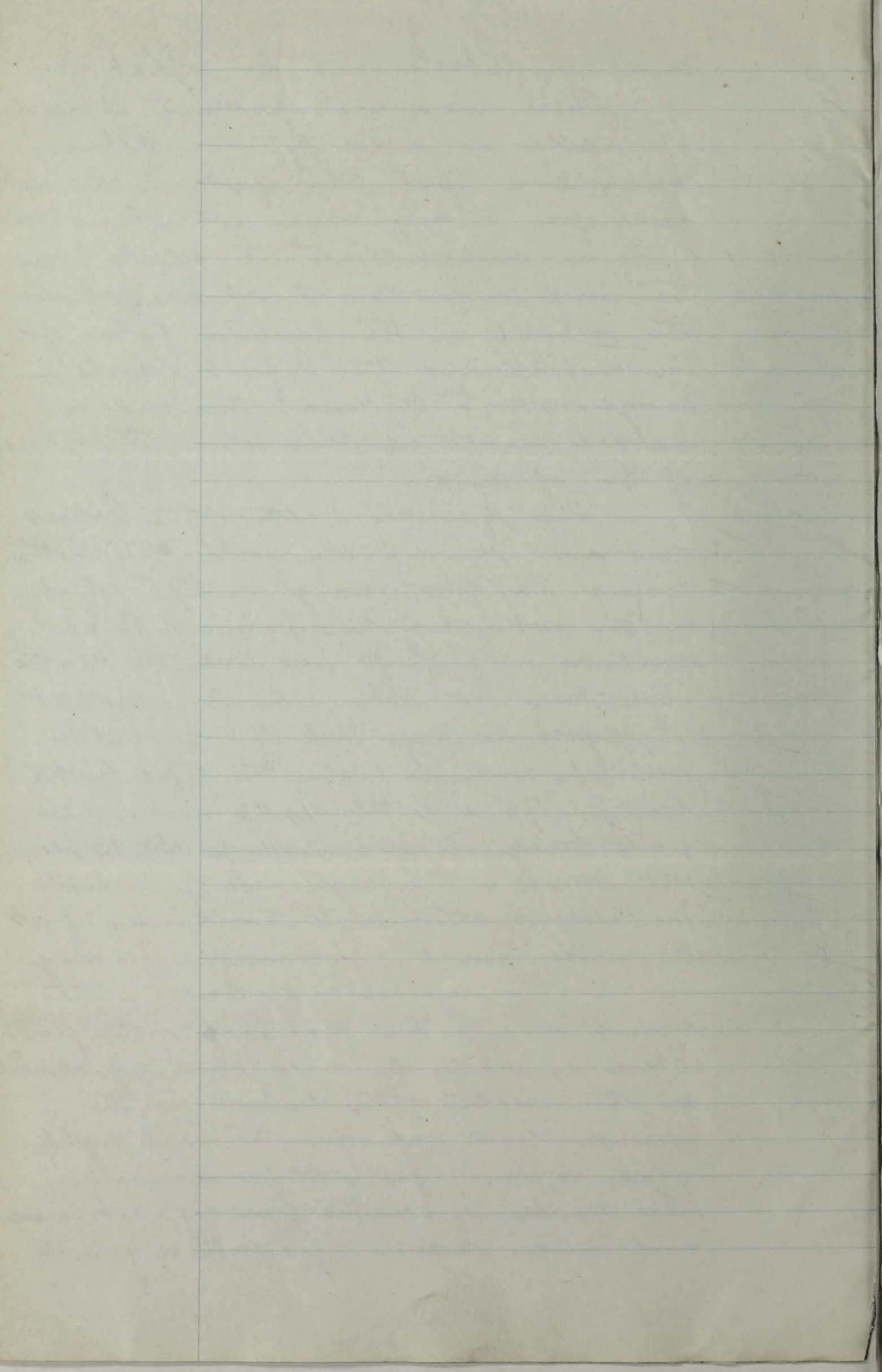
I beg to submit to you
my annual report respecting the
Health of the District for the year
ended Dec^r 1898.

There have been no special
causes affecting the health of the
District except the weather - the
very lengthened continuation of dry
weather during the summer and
early autumn months coupled with
the impossibility of securing effectual
flushing of the drains caused the latter
to become so offensive that I consider
this to be the primary cause of the
outbreak of Diphtheria in August.
In that month there were two cases -
in September none - in October three -
in November two - of the whole only one
case proved fatal. A nuisance
injurious to health was caused by the
spreading over a field in West Chultenham
of butchers manure. I called on the
owner of the field and requested him to
immediately abate the nuisance - he did so.

and undertook not to repeat it.

There was an epidemic of measles of rather a severe type in February March and April: the epidemic did not arise from ~~the~~ any cause within the District but was imported into the schools from the neighbourhood. I at once ordered the schools in the Hamburn portion of the District and the Infant Schools in Kingswood to be closed: this had a marked result in diminishing the spread of the epidemic.

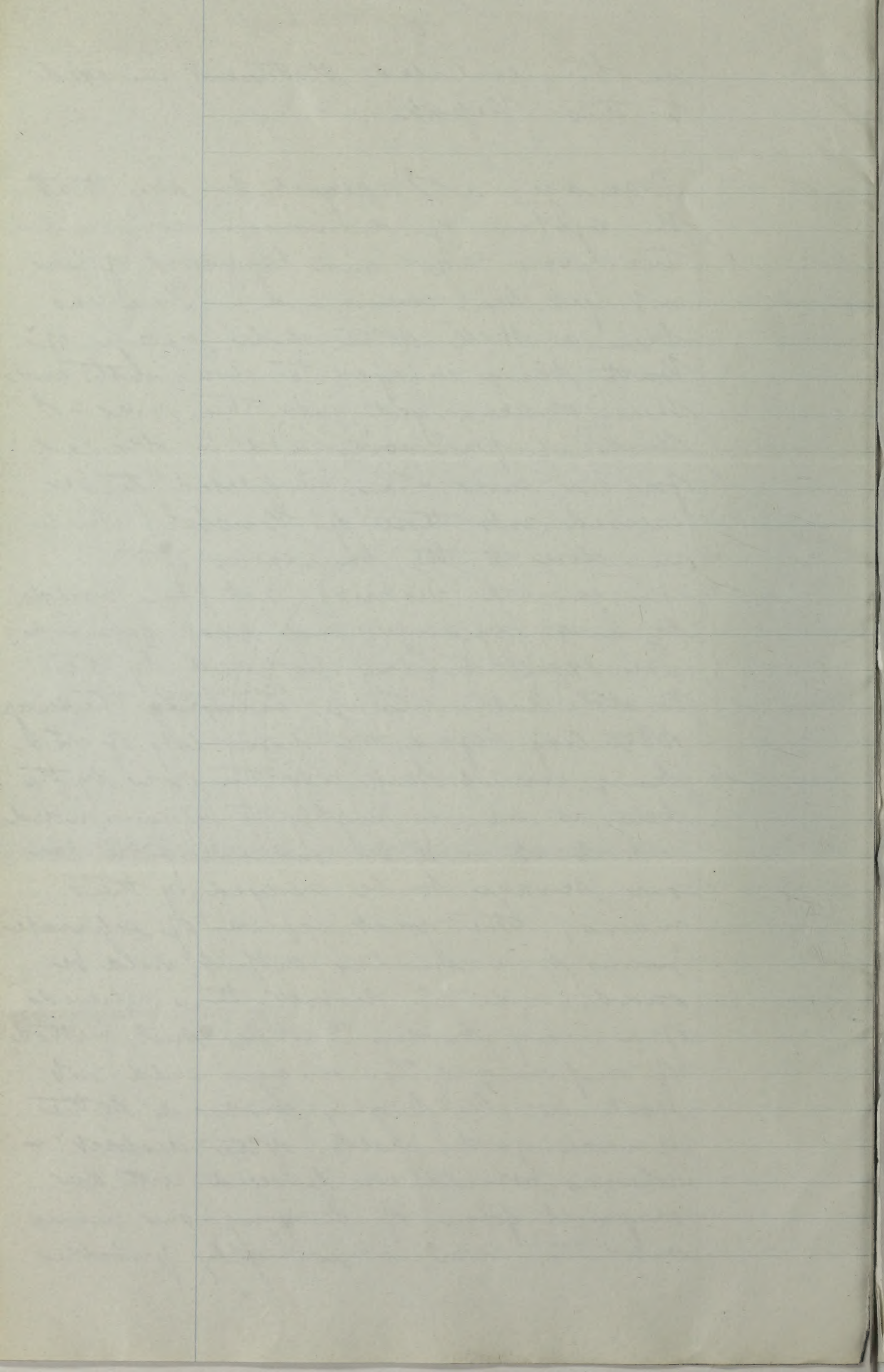
The General Health of the District continues remarkably good. the Births during the Year having been 375 which on an estimated population of 12,500 gives a rate of 30. per 1000 the deaths have been 150 or a rate of 12 per 1000. I regret to say that the Infantile Mortality continues high. the total births being 375 and the deaths under one year being 50. or a rate of 133.33 per 1000 born: - this high rate of Infantile Mortality I attribute to two causes: first to carelessness & ignorance in feeding, second - the depression of trade in the district during the first half of the Year. There is evidently a marked improvement in the health of the district as the average death rate for the past eight years is 14.17 per 1000 per annum. The number of deaths from different causes and under certain ages will be found



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in the tabulated statement annexed to this Report.

Drainage. I regret to say that the system of drainage recommended two years ago and approved of has not yet been commenced - There has been a talk of the whole sewage of Bath being conveyed to Avonmouth and there discharged into the river - I think if permission could be obtained for our sewer when completed to be carried into those of Bristol (which run close to the boundaries of the Kingswood District) that plan would be most effectual and least expensive. The excellent plan proposed by the Bristol Authorities of ^{conveying} ~~carrying~~ the sewage of the City beyond the possibility of its being carried back into the river by the tides is one very highly to be commended and if it could be made possible for our sewage to be conveyed by their mains, the great expense of separate mains to a similar output would be saved, and the district thus relieved of a heavy burden: while such method of disposing of the sewage could not fail to be highly conducive to the general good health of the district: - Whereas should we proceed with our original plan of carrying our mains into the Avon, it is highly probable



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the Bristol Authorities would oppose it. In the meantime no injurious effect has been produced upon the general health of the population but we cannot expect a lengthened continuation of such immunity if some system or other be not soon carried out.

Water. The supply of water by the West Gloucester Co. has been amply sufficient and of excellent quality and during the year has been laid on to 116 houses in the District.

A strain was thrown on the resources of the Company by the continuous drought of several months in the last half of the year but the supply was always equal to the necessities of the District.

There are still some few surface wells not closed - I think however it is most desirable that all wells within the District should be closed as soon as possible.

Factories. I have periodically inspected all the factories in the District and have found any recommendations I have made to the proprietors for the purpose of benefitting the health of the operatives thoroughly carried out.

I may here mention although

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it does not fall strictly under this branch of the Report) that I visited a house in New Belterham Road of which complaint was made. I found it in a condition unfit for human habitation: the ceiling was in a dilapidated state and in the back room the sky could be seen through the openings in the tiles. I immediately ordered it to be closed.

I also visited periodically all the slaughter-houses, bake-houses and dairies in the District and have to report favorably on their condition.

Food I have not been called upon to analyse or inspect any samples of food whether vegetable or animal: I therefore take it for granted that all supplies of both kinds have been fit for human consumption.

Water. I have had two samples of water submitted to me for analysis during the year - One drawn from I know not what source I found utterly unfit for human consumption: the other drawn from a shallow well at Bishes level though not quite free

from impurities I considered not
liable to be injurious to health:
I however ordered the well to be cleared
out before any more water for drinking
or culinary purposes was taken
from it.

Typ. to diseases requiring notification

Diphtheria. Of this there were 7
cases reported one patient only
succumbed to the disease being much
weakened by lung complications.

Scarlet Fever. Nine cases were reported
but no death followed: the most severe
case of all was imported from a
neighbouring district.

Smallpox. Cholera. Puerperal Fever
Enteric Fever. Typhus Fever
No case reported in any one of
these five diseases.

Typhoid. Of the nine cases
reported not one proved fatal.

Zymotic diseases not requiring notification

Measles. Although only 14 deaths
occurred from this cause I have

every reason to believe that there must have been from 350 to 400 cases. I think that it is more necessary that notification of this disease should be made than of one or two of those that are already in the list of diseases requiring notification.

Influenza. There were three deaths from this disease.

Whooping Cough. caused no death.

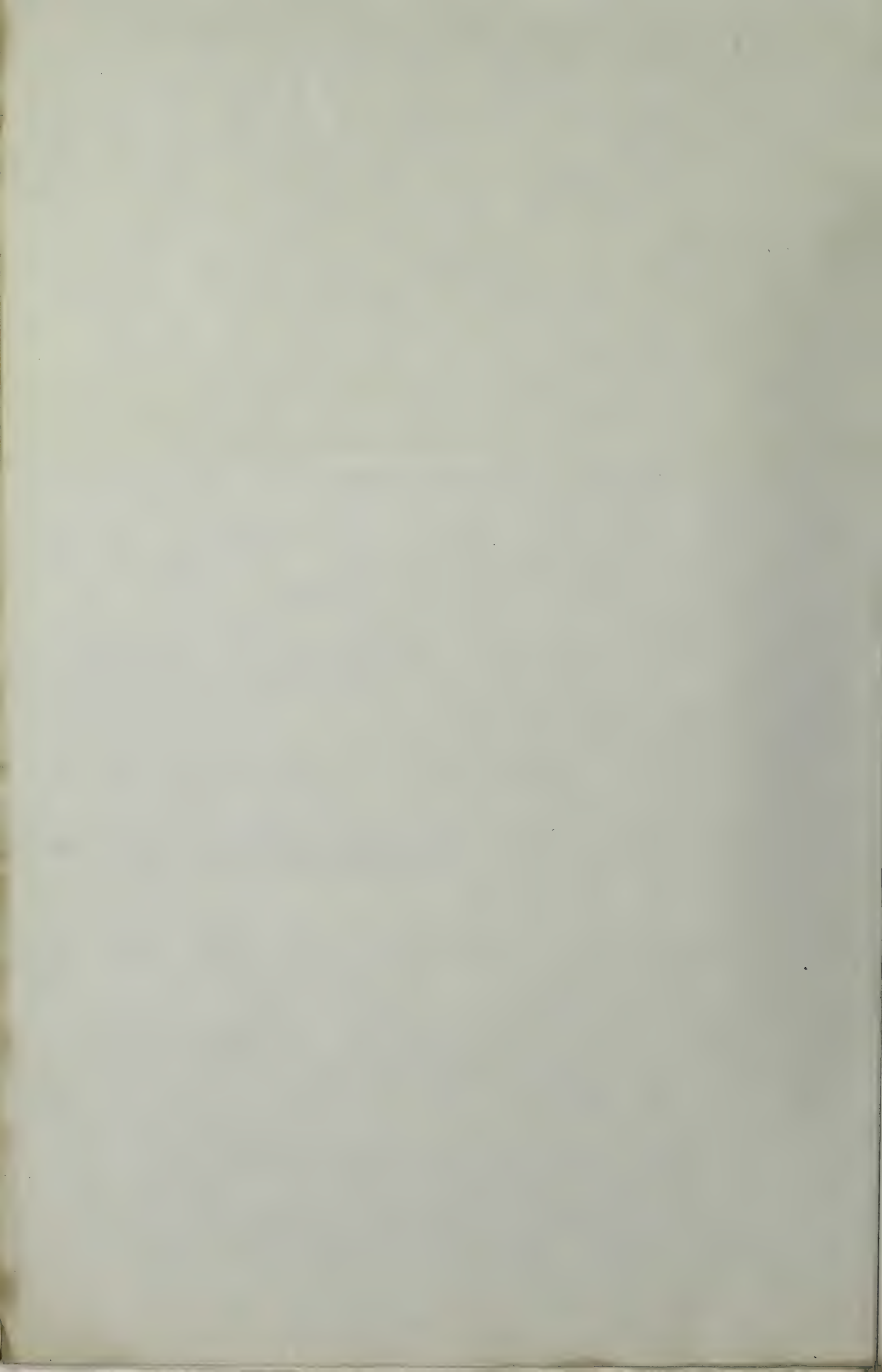
Dysentery & Diarrhoea. - There were 14 deaths from dysentery - most of them were in the summer months and all were children under 5 years of age.

Malaria & Fevers. caused no death.

Phthisis. 13 deaths resulted from this disease - all over 5 years of age.

Cancer. caused 7 deaths - all the cases were over 5 years.

Consumption, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.
The deaths under this class were 19. Last year ~~22~~ 24 were registered and the previous year 40. - This shows a marked improvement.



Cardiac diseases caused 11 deaths
and all were over 5 years.

Only one death is reported
from injury.

Signed-

C. Perrot

January 31st 1899 Kingswood Hill

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the Western District,
classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

District,

[illegible]

NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*

2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*

3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*

4. *The "Localities" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population ; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships or wards.*

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those registered as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District ; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, e.g., the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.*

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.			
Area in Acres		2. 500	
Population (Last Census)		9.700	
" (Estimated to middle of 1898)		12.500	
Death Rates.	General	12.	per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1898.
	Infant (under one year of age)	133.33	

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

C. P. Perrott

Medical Officer of Health.

(Date) *January 31st*, 1899.

NOTES ON TABLE B.

(See also Notes on back of Table A.)

- NOTE 1. The present *Table B.* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the district or division to which the Table relates.
2. As stated in the heading of Col. (a), *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmarys, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.
3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of notifiable disease upon the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of Consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*